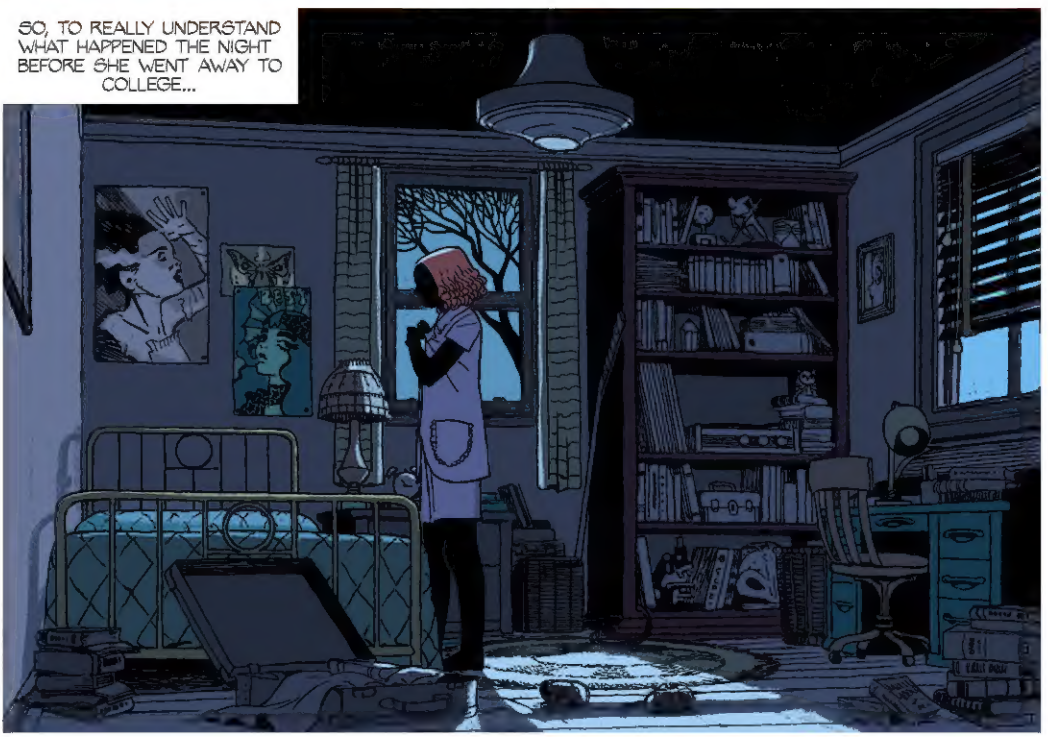
Friday
Ed Brubaker
Marcos Martín
Muntsa Vicente

Chapter Two
The Night Before She Left

THERE SHE IS.
HEY AUNT JODY...
...IT'S GOOD TO BE HOME.
I MADE HOT CHOCOLATE.
OH... THANKS, BUT...
NONE FOR ME TONIGHT.
THIS WAS THE DAY THAT NEVER WANTED TO END...
I'M JUST GONNA GO TO BED.
NO HOT CHOCOLATE...?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH OUR GIRL?
SOMETHING'S GOING ON WITH HER AND LANCE.

SHE BARELY SPOKE ON THE WAY HOME.
I *TOLD* YOU.
I *KNEW* SOMETHING *HAPPENED* WITH THEM.

POOR KID... WHY DID SHE *EVER* HAVE TO GROW UP...?
JUST *BAD LUCK*, I GUESS.


SO, TO REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED THE NIGHT BEFORE SHE WENT AWAY TO COLLEGE...

...THERE ARE *OTHER* THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW FIRST, ABOUT FRIDAY FITZHUGH AND LANCELOT JONES.

IT STARTED SIX YEARS AGO, ON THE FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS VACATION...

THEY HAD MOVED TO *KINGS HILL* A FEW MONTHS EARLIER SO AUNT JODY COULD TEACH AT THE *UNIVERSITY*.
FRIDAY'S MOM GOT A JOB AT THE *TOWN LIBRARY*, AND THEY BOTH SEEMED PRETTY HAPPY HERE...

BUT FRIDAY MOSTLY HATED IT SO FAR.

THE OTHER KIDS AT SCHOOL ALL TREATED HER LIKE SOME WEIRD OUTSIDER.
WHICH WAS KIND OF HOW SHE SAW *HERSELF*...

BUT FRIDAY PREFERRED TO *CHOOSE* HER OUTCAST STATUS, NOT HAVE EVERYONE ELSE VOTE ON IT BEHIND HER BACK.
SLAAAP
SO YEAH... *SIXTH GRADE* HAD BEEN PRETTY LONELY SO FAR.
NKK
PLP
SHIT.
BUT THAT WAS ABOUT TO CHANGE...
STOP IT!
LET ME GO!

BECAUSE THIS WAS THE DAY THAT FRIDAY MET LANCELOT JONES...
STOP!
SCREW YOU, YOU RAT!
I'M GONNA MURDER YOU!

THE DAY THAT WALLY WADSWORTH TRIED TO THROW HIM INTO THE FROZEN LAKE.
WAIT-- WAIT--!!
DON'T--!
SHUT UP, YOU STUPID LITTLE SHITHEAD!
DANGER
THIN ICE

HELP!
SOMEBODY--!

HELP ME--!

FRIDAY RECOGNIZED LANCE FROM SCHOOL. HE WAS TWO GRADES AHEAD OF HER, EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS OLDER THAN HIM.
BUT SHE'D HEARD HE WAS SOME KIND OF PRODIGY... THE TOWN GENIUS.
THE KIND OF LABEL THAT USUALLY MAKES YOU A TARGET FOR THE *LESS-THAN-GENIUS* KIDS.
WALLY WADSWORTH, OF COURSE, WAS WEASEL'S OLDER ***BROTHER***... AND EVERYONE IN TOWN KNEW WALLY...
STAR QUARTERBACK...
HOMECOMING KING...
COMPLETE ASSHOLE.
HEY WALLY--
--SLAP SHOT!!

SMAAK
!!?
HOLY SHIT!
WALLY!
I'M JUST GETTING WARMED UP...
IF YOU WANT TO GET YOUR ASSES KICKED, TOO.

SCREW THAT... I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU, KID...
THEN TAKE YOUR STUPID FRIEND AND GET OUT OF HERE...
...AND MAYBE I WON'T TELL THE WHOLE TOWN HE GOT KNOCKED-OUT BY A SIXTH GRADER.
ARE YOU OKAY?
YES... I'M FINE...
LANCELOT JONES... AT YOUR SERVICE.

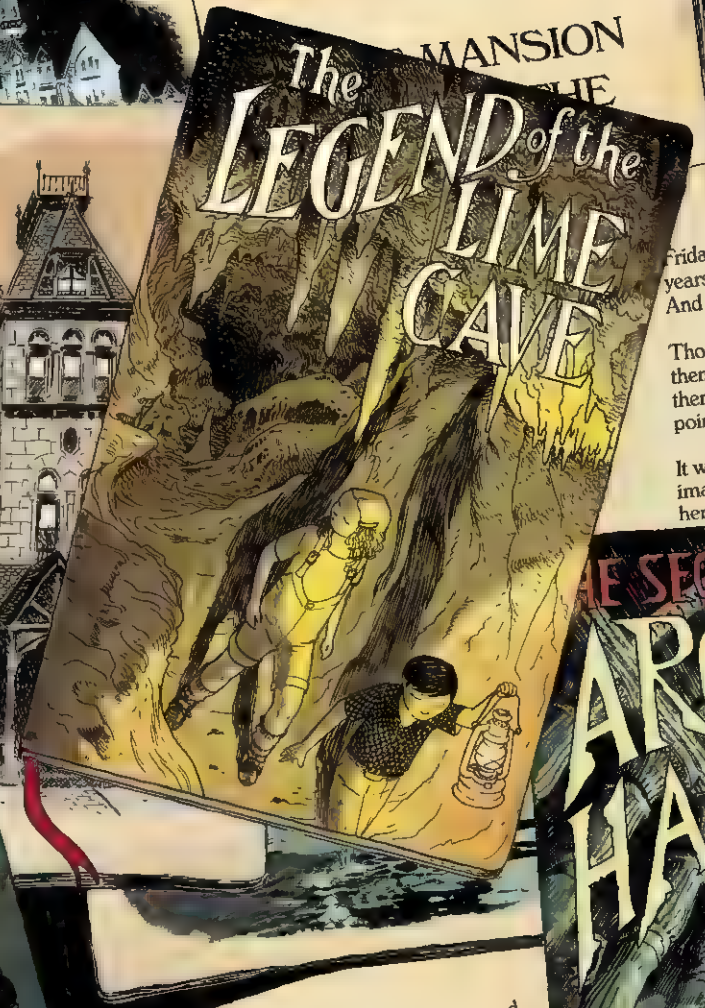
HI. I'M
FRIDAY FITZHUGH, THE SMARTEST KID N THE SIXTH GRADE...
AND APPARENTLY THE TOUGHEST.
YOU WOULDN'T BE LOOKING FOR A JOB, WOULD YOU?
UMMM... AREN'T YOU ELEVEN YEARS OLD?
YES... THAT'S WHY I NEED A BODYGUARD.
COME ON, LET'S GO GET SOME DONUTS AND TALK ABOUT YOUR SALARY...
AFTER THAT DAY, FRIDAY AND LANCE WERE BASICALLY INSEPARABLE.
PARTNERS IN NOT-CRIME.

BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT LANCE DID... SOLVED MYSTERIES.
WHETHER IT WAS A RUNAWAY DOG OR A GHOST HAUNTING THE LOCAL CHURCH...
The Donut King
LANCELOT JONES WOULD FIND THE TRUTH.
WHICH IS HOW HE'D ENDED UP ON WALLY WADSWORTH'S BAD SIDE...
--AND IT WAS RIGHT THERE IN HIS SCHOOL LOCKER...
REALLY... SOME OF THESE KIDS ARE SO STUPID.
AND I MEAN, WHY WOULD HE EVEN WANT AN 8TH CENTURY RELIGIOUS ICON?
HE WAS DEFINITELY THE STRANGEST BOY FRIDAY HAD EVER MET...
AND HE WOULD SOON SHOW HER THAT KINGS HILL WAS NOT THE BORING LITTLE TOWN SHE THOUGHT IT WAS.
DONUT

No, once you learned to see beyond its surface, Kings Hill was something else entirely.

A place that was both old-fashioned and full of mystery at the same time...

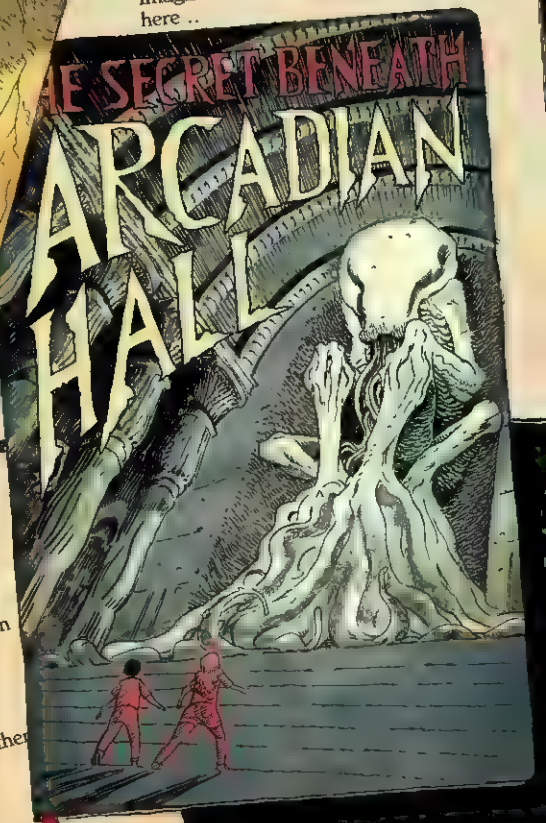
With forests where you could find ancient artifacts of long-dead religions, and the otherworldly echoes they left behind.



Friday and Lance spent their teen years exploring these mysteries... And getting in and out of trouble.

Though mostly it was Lance getting them into trouble and Friday getting them out, but that was beside the point.

It was a life she could never have imagined when they had moved here ..



And for a long time, Friday loved every minute of it, even the parts where it seemed like they were about to die.

They were two friends taking on evil... Whether large or small, it didn't matter.

And their summer vacations were epic adventures that other kids could only dream of.

But once she got to high school, when everyone started pairing up... And there were dances and drinking and make-out parties...

Well, then things with her and Lance got kind of messed up.

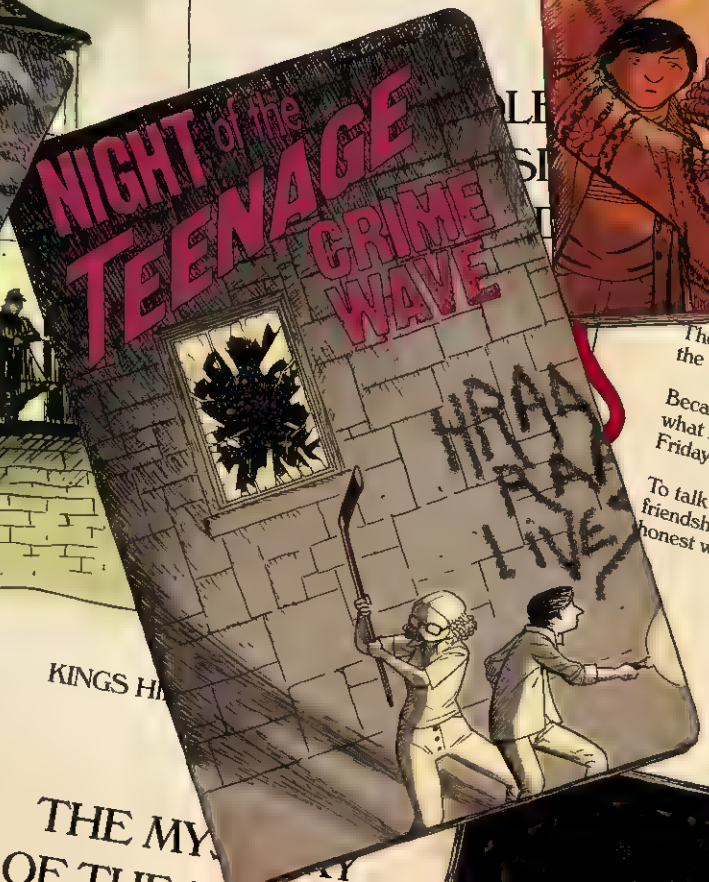
They were best friends, and nothing ever happened... But there was something else between them now.

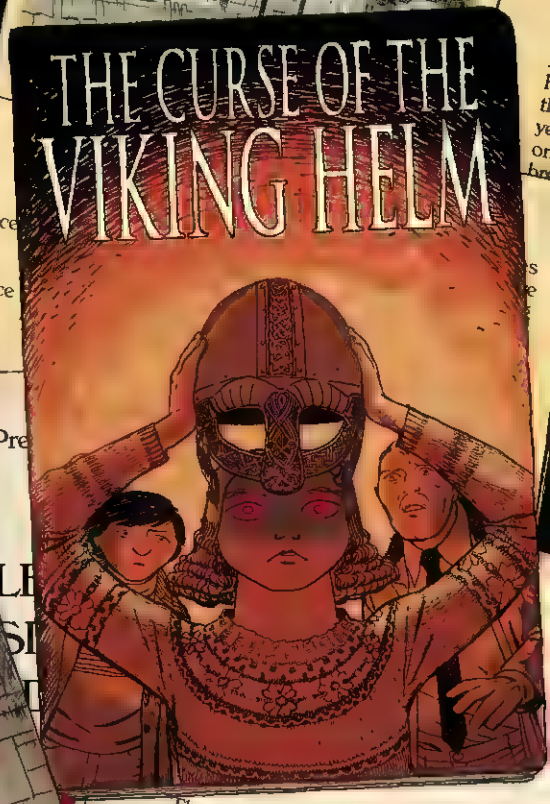
If Friday ever liked another guy, or if someone asked her out, Lance would get all sulky.

And when Margery Elks said Lance was cute, Friday felt sick.

But they never talked about any of this.

KINGS HILL BOOKS Pre





They just pretended everything was the same as it had always been.

Because to talk about it would spoil what made their friendship special, Friday thought.

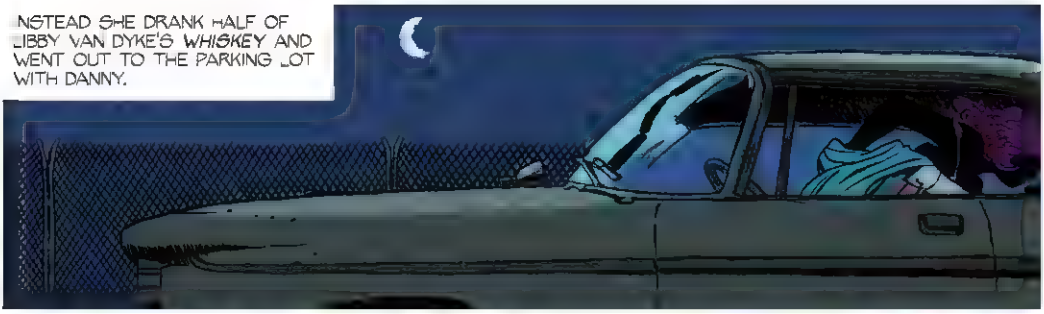
To talk about it might even end their friendship, if she was being really honest with herself.

KINGS HI

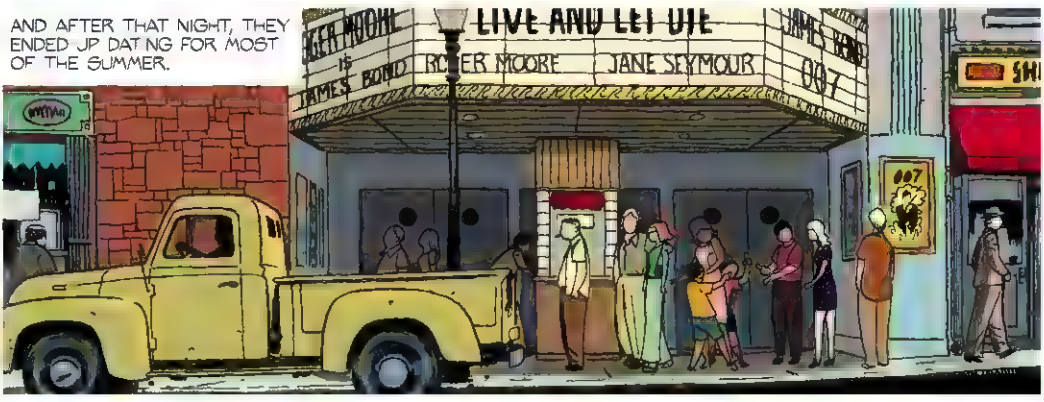
THE MY
OF THE

AND THIS IS HOW FRIDAY ENDED UP GOING TO THE SENIOR PROM WITH DANNY BUTTONS.
COME ON, KIDS... BIG SMILES NOW...
BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T WANT TO GO WITH LANCE, AS "FRIENDS"- SHE WANTED TO BE LIKE ANY OTHER GIRL.
KINGS HILL HIGH CLASS OF 7
SHE WANTED TO BE WANTED.
BUT ALL NIGHT SHE JUST KEPT THINKING ABOUT LANCE AT HOME, HELPING HIS DAD MAN THE LIGHTHOUSE...
UNTIL SHE GOT SO MAD AT HERSELF THAT SHE FELT LIKE SCREAMING.
BUT SHE DIDN'T.

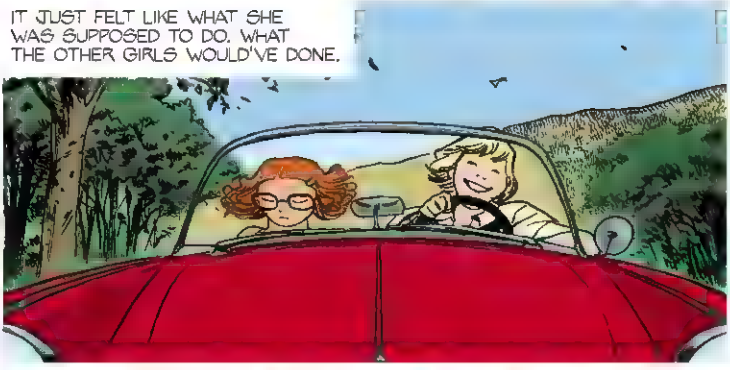
INSTEAD SHE DRANK HALF OF LIBBY VAN DYKE'S *WHISKEY* AND WENT OUT TO THE PARKING LOT WITH DANNY.



AND AFTER THAT NIGHT, THEY ENDED UP DATING FOR MOST OF THE SUMMER.



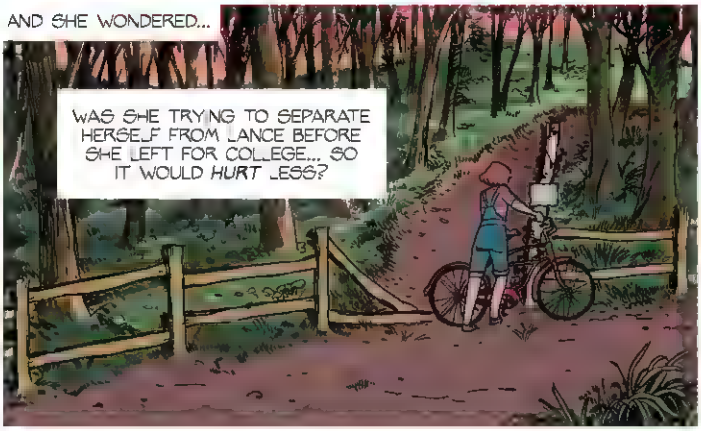
IT JUST FELT LIKE WHAT SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO DO. WHAT THE OTHER GIRLS WOULD'VE DONE.



BUT HER HEART WASN'T IN IT.

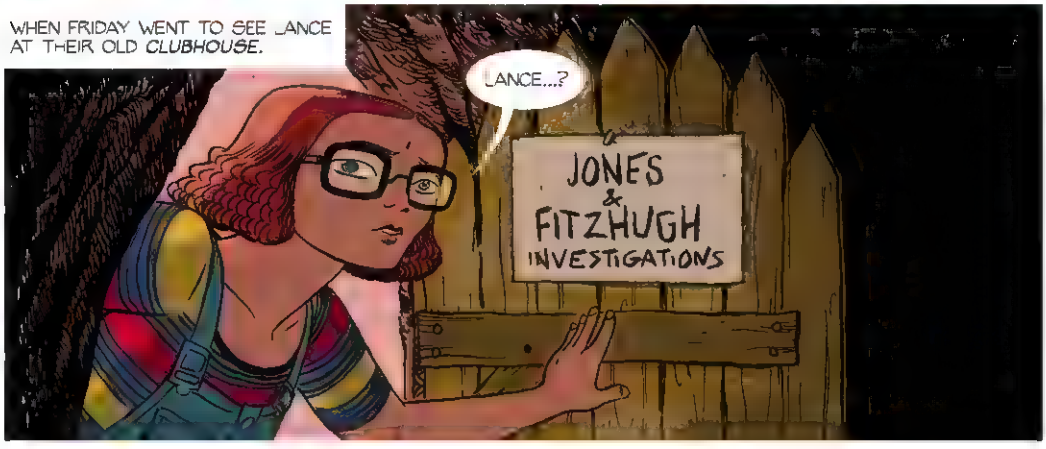
AND SHE WONDERED...

WAS SHE TRYING TO SEPARATE HERSELF FROM LANCE BEFORE SHE LEFT FOR COLLEGE... SO IT WOULD *HURT* LESS?

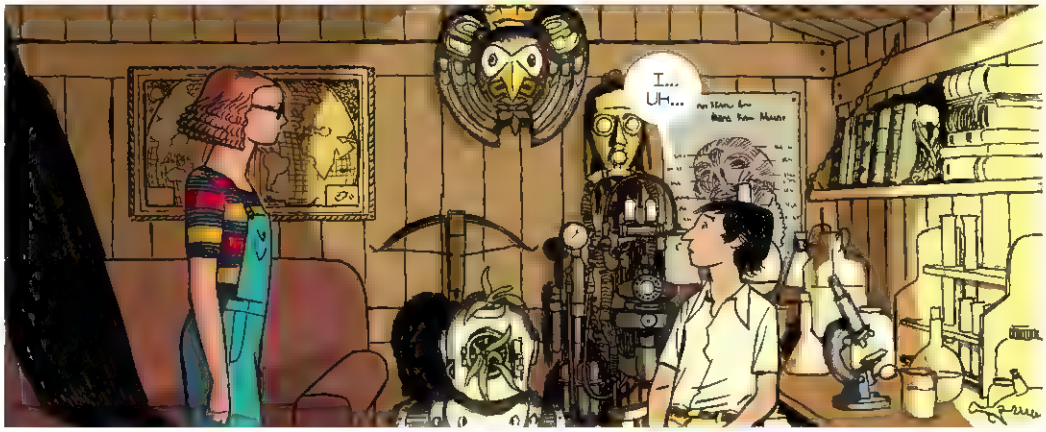


OR WAS SHE JUST AVOIDING DEALING WITH THE *REAL* ISSUE?

WHICH BRINGS US TO THE NIGHT BEFORE SHE LEFT...


WHEN FRIDAY WENT TO SEE LANCE AT THEIR OLD CLUBHOUSE.
LANCE...?
JONES & FITZHUGH INVESTIGATIONS

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE W TH DANNY.
THEN I GUESS THERE'S ONE THING IN THIS TOWN YOU DON'T KNOW...
I BROKE UP WITH DANNY THREE DAYS AGO.
OH.
LOOK, CAN WE JUST BE HONEST ONE T ME... PLEASE?
ABOUT WHAT?
DO YOU LOVE ME?


I... UH...

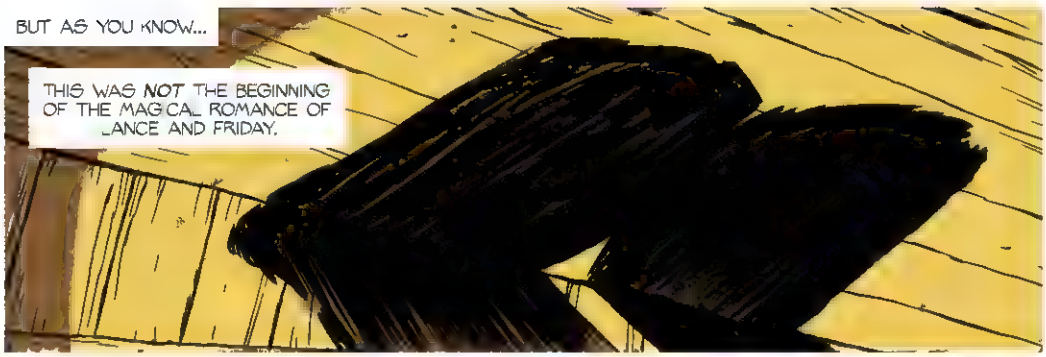
AND NOT LIKE A SISTER OR A SIDEKICK...
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

PROBABLY.
I MEAN, MOST OF THE TIME I THINK SO.

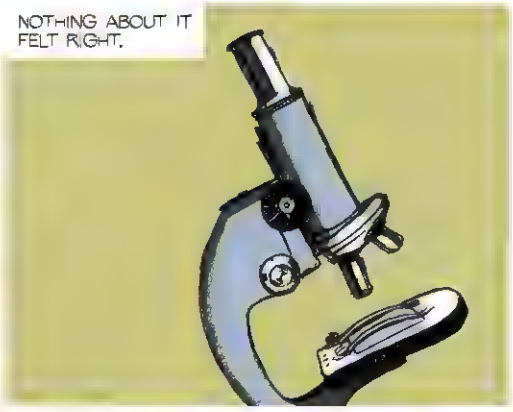
BUT... YOU'RE BASICALLY MY ONLY FRIEND, RIGHT?

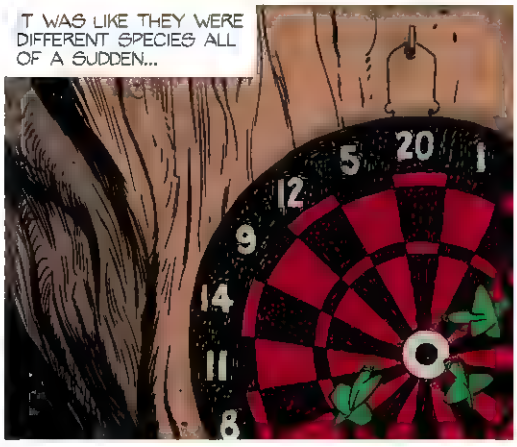
SO I HAVE TO WONDER... IS T REAL?

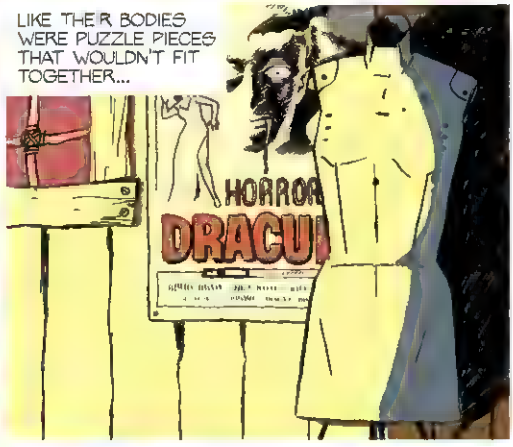
OR IS IT JUST THAT YOU'RE THE ONLY GIRL I'M EVER AROUND?
I MEAN, I UNDERSTAND HORMONES AND PHEROMONES AND-
DON'T DO THAT.
I'M NOT A CASE YOU'RE SOLVING.
I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE...
IT'S SIMPLE.
DO YOU WANT ME OR NOT?
I THINK SO.
YES
OKAY THEN...


BUT AS YOU KNOW...
THIS WAS NOT THE BEGINNING OF THE MAGICAL ROMANCE OF LANCE AND FRIDAY.

NO. IT WAS THE MOST AWKWARD FIVE MINUTES OF HER ENTIRE LIFE.


NOTHING ABOUT IT FELT RIGHT.

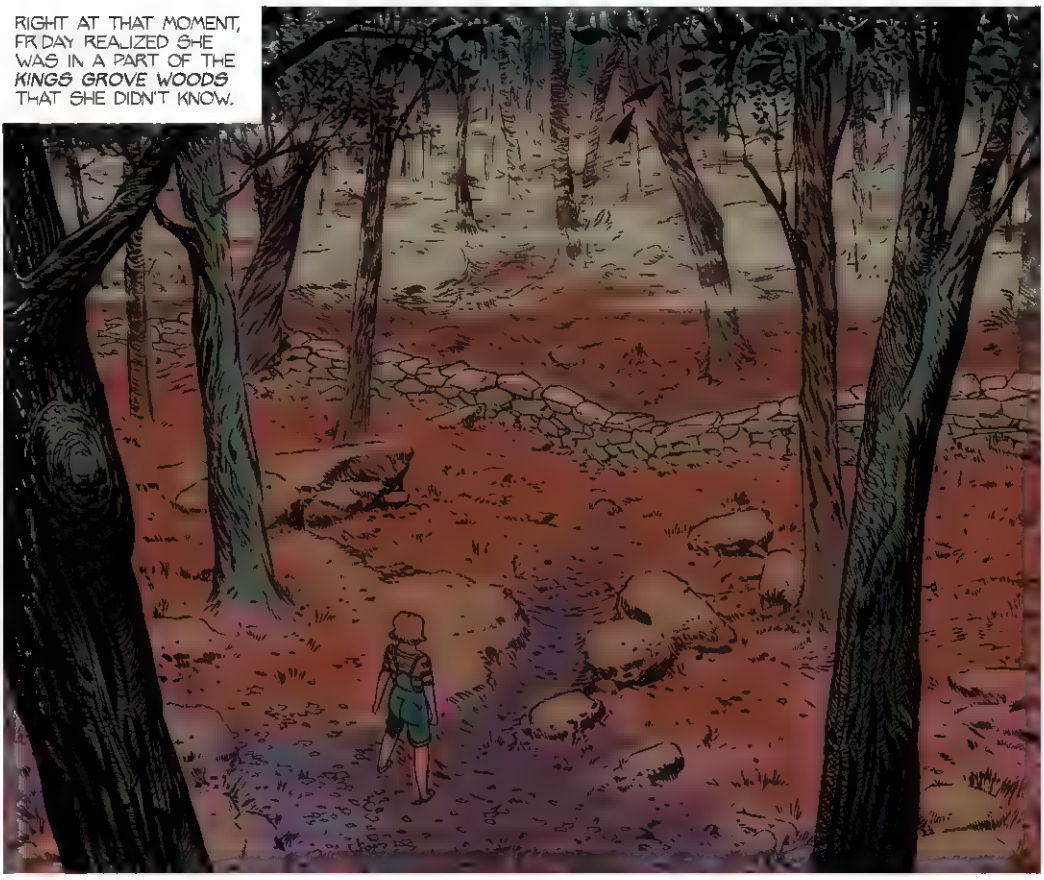

IT WAS LIKE THEY WERE DIFFERENT SPECIES ALL OF A SUDDEN...
20
1
5
12
9
14
11
8


LIKE THEIR BODIES WERE PUZZLE PIECES THAT WOULDN'T FIT TOGETHER...
HORROR
DRACU

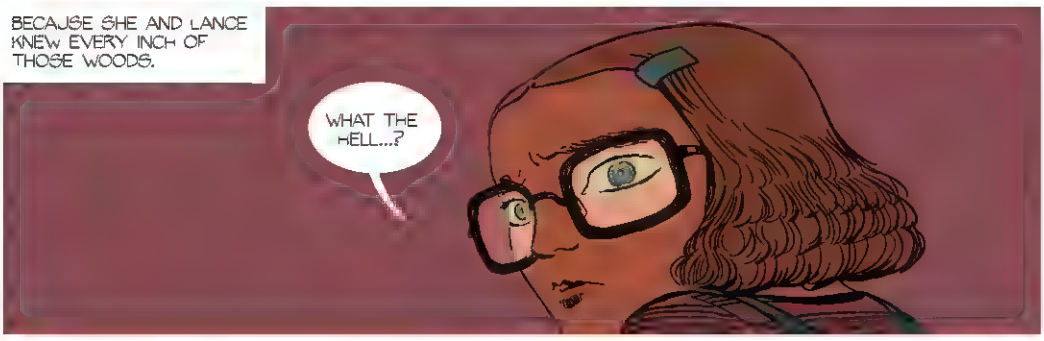
BUT THEY KEPT TRYING ANYWAY, EVERY BAD KISS A CHALLENGE TO THE NEXT ONE.

WHEN THEY FINALLY GAVE UP, FRIDAY DIDN'T KNOW WHICH OF THEM SHE WAS MORE EMBARRASSED FOR...
WELL... THAT WAS...
..SORRY..
...I DON'T... UM...
I'M GONNA GO...
WAIT... FRIDAY...
NO. IT'S FINE... IT'S NOT WEIRD.
I'M JUST GONNA GO.
I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.

IT'S NOT WEIRD?
SHE COULDN'T BELIEVE SHE ACTUALLY SAID THAT.
WORSE, SHE COULDN'T BELIEVE ANY OF THAT JUST HAPPENED.
WHAT THE HELL HAD SHE BEEN THINKING?
FUCKING IDIOT.
AND JUST THEN, AS SHE WAS STARTING TO PANIC...
MIND SPINNING IN CIRCLES AROUND EVERYTHING SHE WAS ABOUT TO LOSE...
AND SUDDENLY REMEMBERING THE TRAIN SHE'S LEAVING ON IN THE MORNING...

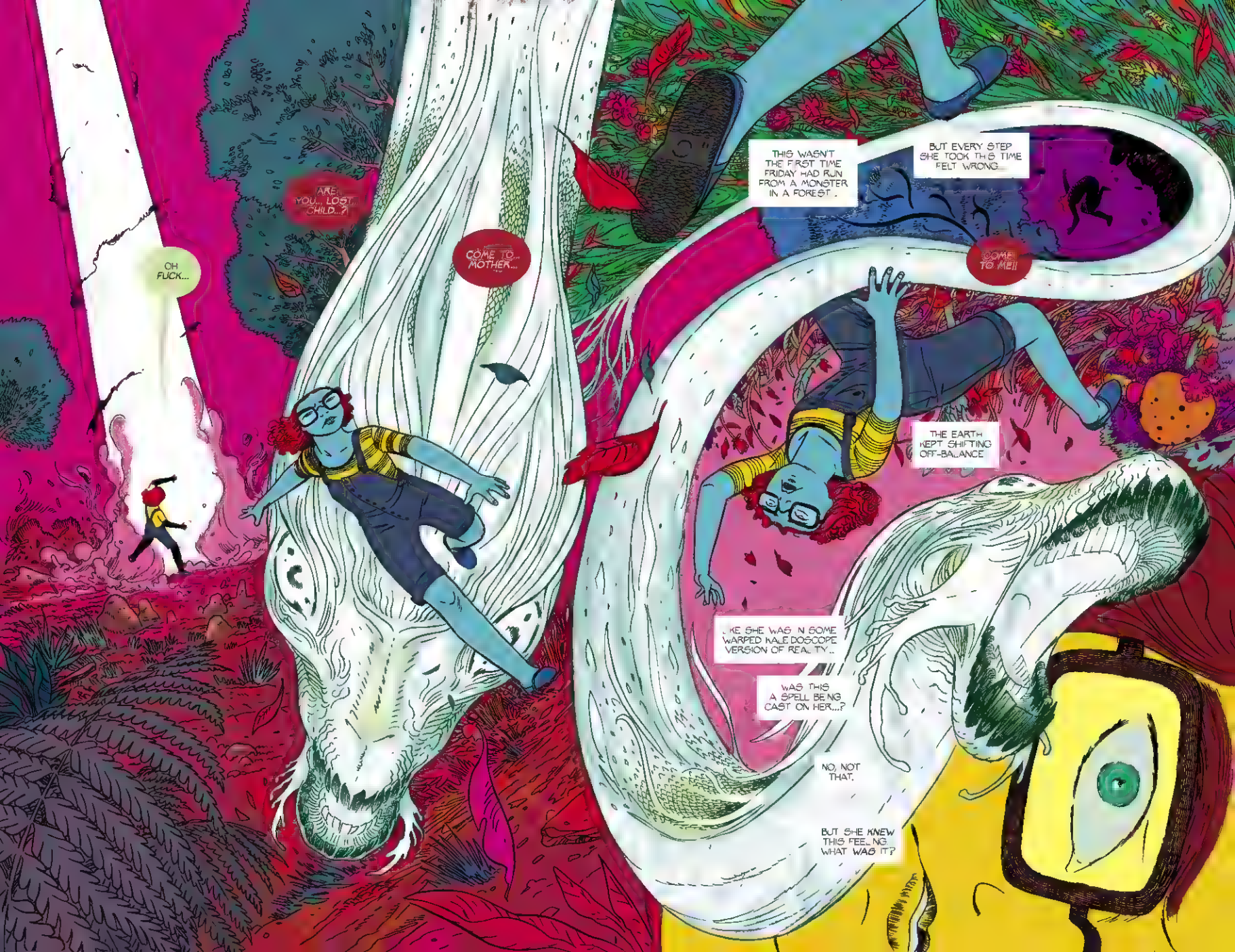

RIGHT AT THAT MOMENT, FRIDAY REALIZED SHE WAS IN A PART OF THE *KINGS GROVE WOODS* THAT SHE DIDN'T KNOW.

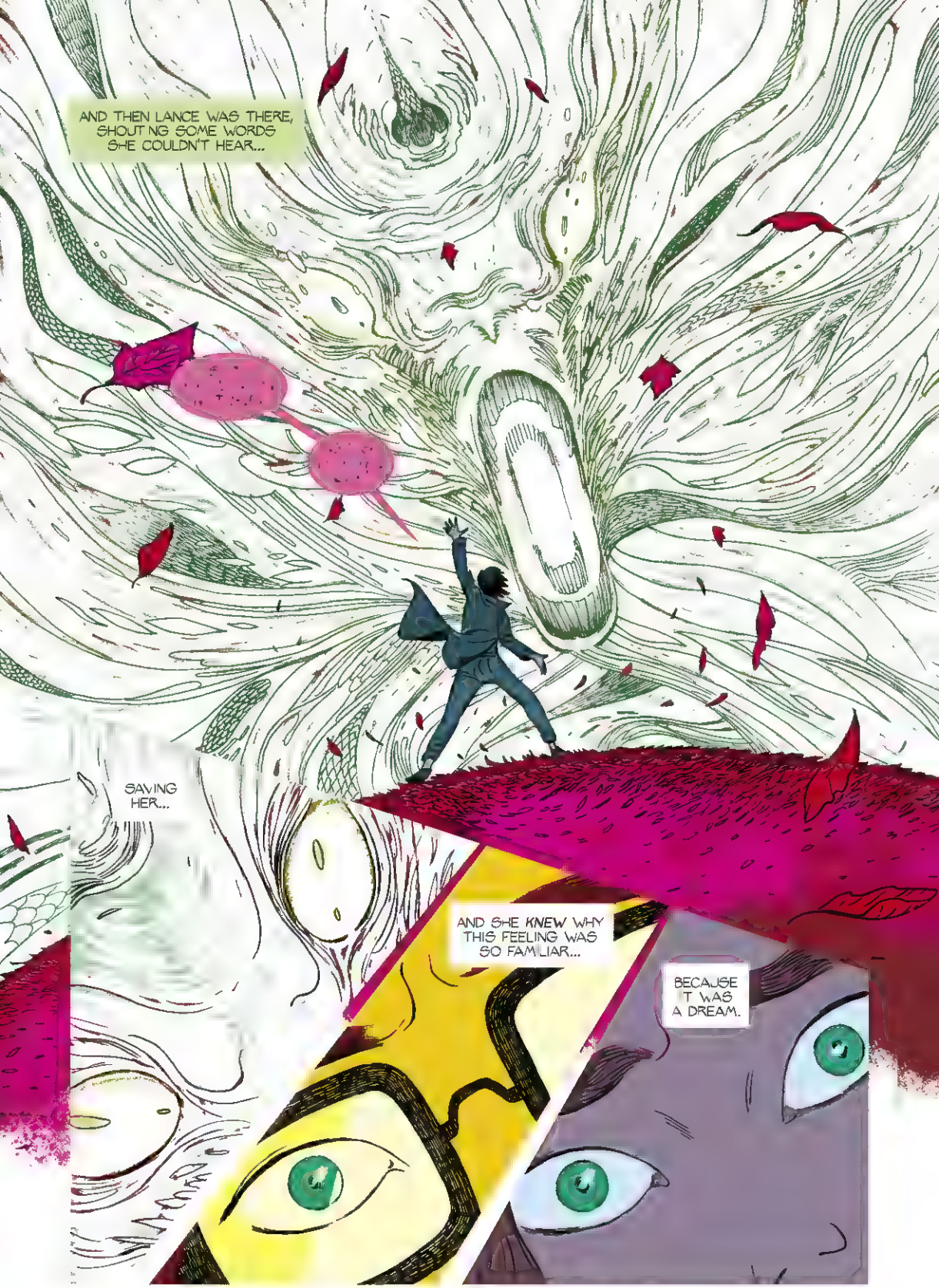
WHICH DIDN'T MAKE SENSE...


BECAUSE SHE AND LANCE KNEW EVERY INCH OF THOSE WOODS.
WHAT THE HELL...?

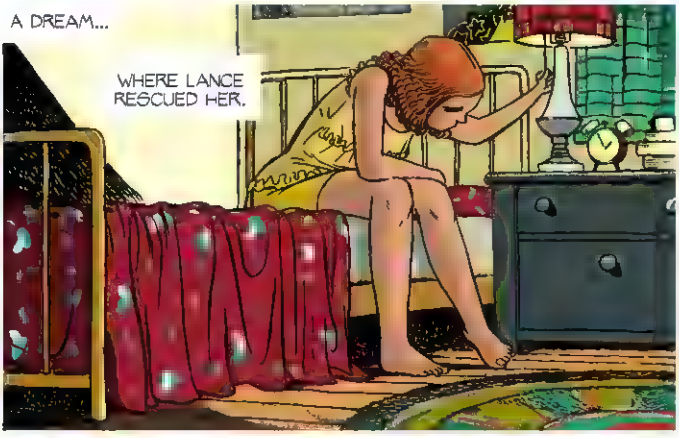
...MY CHILD
MY LOST CHILD...
HEY... ARE YOU OKAY, LADY?
SO MANY... LOST...
HELLO?
CAN YOU HEAR ME?

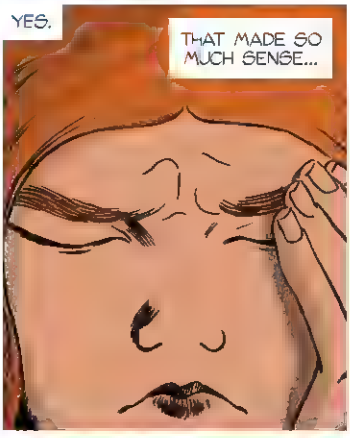
AM I TALKING TO MYSELF?
NO ONE IS EVER TALKING TO THEMSELVES HERE, GIRL.
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT.


ARE YOU... LOST, CHILD...?
COME TO... MOTHER...
OH FUCK...
THIS WASN'T THE FIRST TIME FRIDAY HAD RUN FROM A MONSTER IN A FOREST.
BUT EVERY STEP SHE TOOK THIS TIME FELT WRONG...
COME TO ME!!
THE EARTH KEPT SHIFTING OFF-BALANCE.
...KE SHE WAS IN SOME WARPED KALEIDOSCOPE VERSION OF REALITY...
WAS THIS A SPELL BEING CAST ON HER...?
NO, NOT THAT.
BUT SHE KNEW THIS FEELING. WHAT WAS IT?

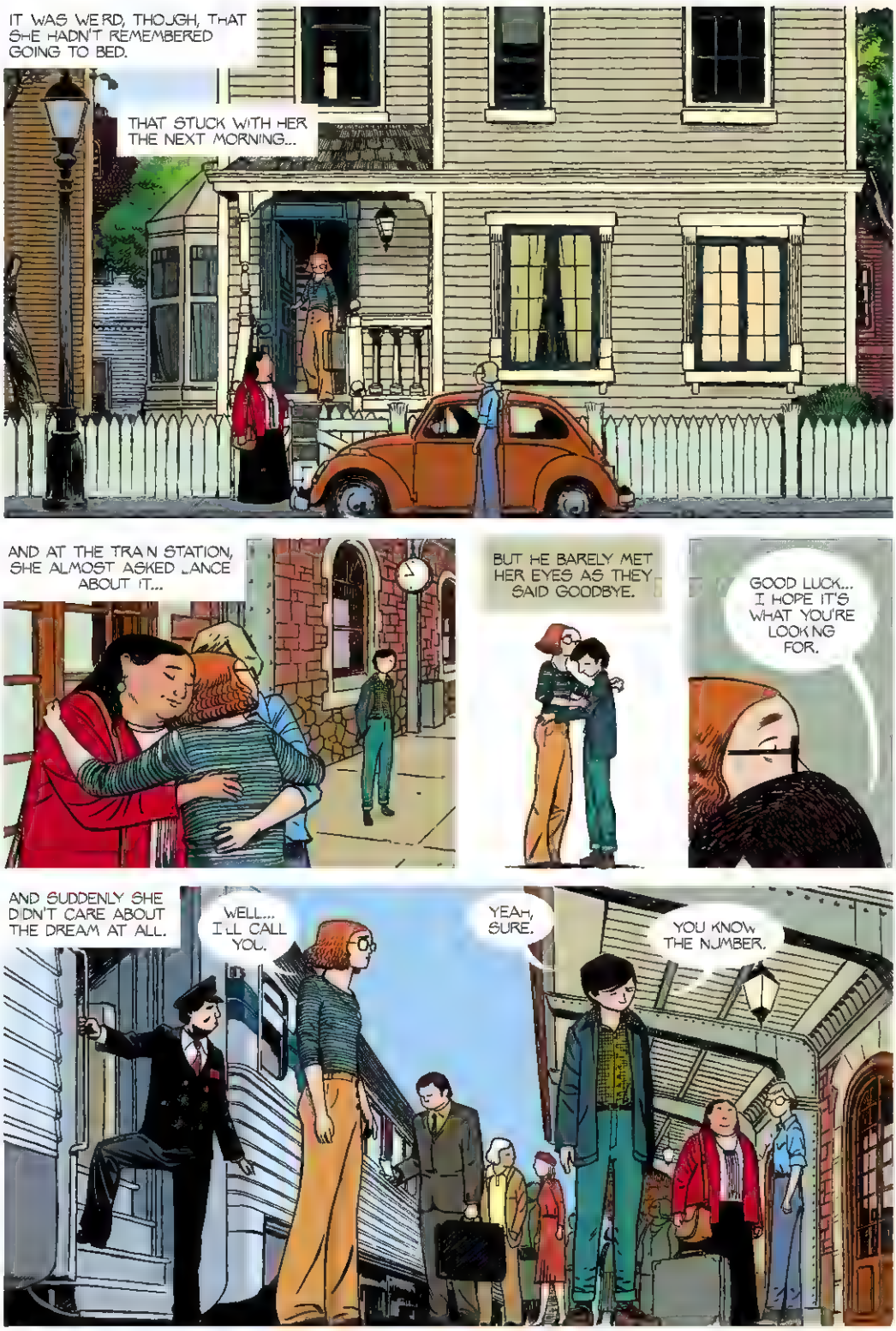

AND THEN LANCE WAS THERE, SHOUTING SOME WORDS SHE COULDN'T HEAR...
SAVING HER...
AND SHE KNEW WHY THIS FEELING WAS SO FAMILIAR...
BECAUSE IT WAS A DREAM.

...HOLY SHIT...


A DREAM...
WHERE LANCE RESCUED HER.


YES.
THAT MADE SO MUCH SENSE...

AFTER HOW BADLY SHE HAD SCREWED EVERYTHING UP.


IT WAS WEIRD, THOUGH, THAT SHE HADN'T REMEMBERED GOING TO BED.
THAT STUCK WITH HER THE NEXT MORNING...
AND AT THE TRAIN STATION, SHE ALMOST ASKED LANCE ABOUT IT...
BUT HE BARELY MET HER EYES AS THEY SAID GOODBYE.
GOOD LUCK... I HOPE IT'S WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.
AND SUDDENLY SHE DIDN'T CARE ABOUT THE DREAM AT ALL.
WELL.... I'LL CALL YOU.
YEAH, SURE.
YOU KNOW THE NUMBER.

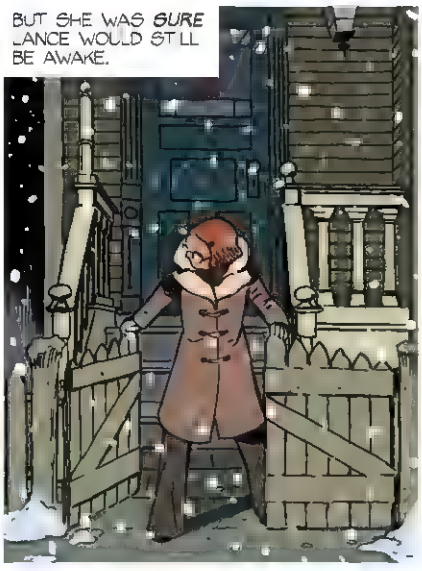
SUDDENLY SHE WAS JUST OVERWHELMED WITH SADNESS.
SHE HAD RUINED EVERYTHING AND NOW SHE WAS LEAVING...
OFF TO A BRAND NEW WORLD.
AND INSTEAD OF THAT BEING A GOOD THING, SOMETHING EXCITING...
IT FELT LIKE SHE WAS RUNNING AWAY.

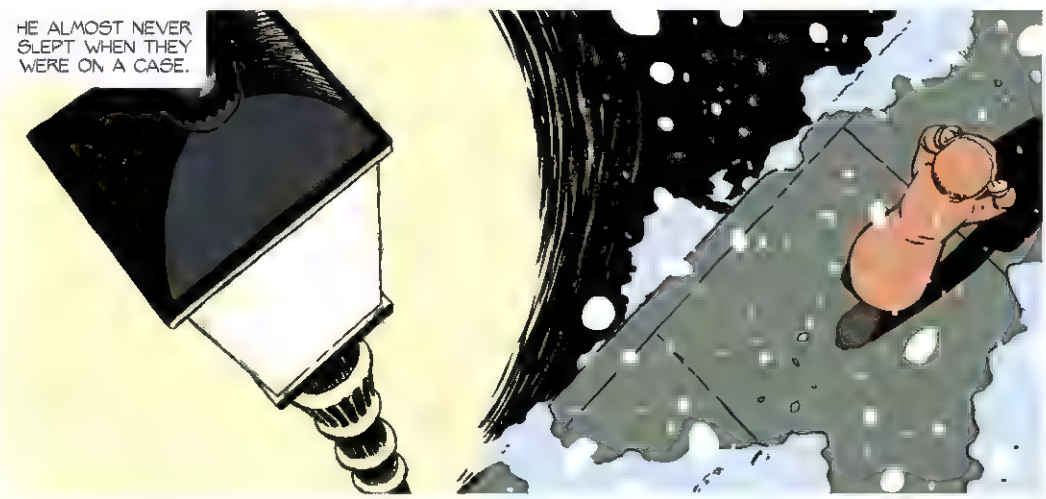
AND NOW, THREE MONTHS LATER... SHE'S STILL THINKING ABOUT THAT NIGHT.
AND STILL FEELING TERRIBLE.
BUT TONIGHT, WHEN SHE CAN'T SLEEP... SHE ALSO THINKS ABOUT THAT DREAM AGAIN.
THE WEIRD LADY IN THE WOODS.
LANCE SAVING HER.

AND A NEW PIECE COMES BACK TO HER... SHE REMEMBERS THE WORDS HE SAID...
STOP, WHITE LADY! NOT HER!
SHE'S NOT THE ONE!
WHITE LADY?
OH SHIT.

WHY WAS WEASEL WADSWORTH RANTING ABOUT THE WEIRD LADY FROM HER *DREAM*?
HOW WAS THAT POSSIBLE?
ANSWER: T WASN'T.

IT WAS THREE IN THE MORNING...


BUT SHE WAS *SURE* LANCE WOULD STILL BE AWAKE.


HE ALMOST NEVER SLEPT WHEN THEY WERE ON A CASE.

End of
Chapter Two

Thank God It's Friday

Hey everyone, we're finally back, and assuming you're reading this after the story, you have just gotten a 40 page crash course in Friday and Lancelot Jones's history as YA private detectives in the weird world of Kings Hill. This chapter was a monster both to write and draw, because we wanted you to really get a good idea of who these kids are, and who they were when they met.

Side note – the scene where Friday and Lance met was actually inspired by a sketch Marcos sent me, before he started drawing chapter one, of young Friday on the ice with a hockey stick. I had a good idea of how they would meet, but when I saw that drawing the whole scene popped into my head.

Okay, last time I asked you to send in ideas for the letters page name, and a lot of you did (I think about ten of you suggested It's Friday, I'm in Love). But who is our winner? We'll get to that somewhere in here, but before we jump to the letters, I just want to thank you all for supporting our book. So many of you wrote in to share what Friday meant to you when you read it, and how it made you think back to your own childhood days, that it was really moving. I've been doing this a long time, and I'm still amazed whenever readers respond to what we do like this. So thanks a lot, I hope you enjoyed chapter two just as much.

And now lets get to the letters...

Seeing the news from Panel Syndicate yesterday that they were going to drop a new book today got me pretty excited, the most excited I've been since this whole plague started. I've been spending most of my time reading novels, rereading comics, and rewatching movies. I've been anxious for something new.

And then today, to find out it's a new comic by Ed Brubaker and Marcos Martin (I'm less familiar with Muntsa Vicente's work, but I really like the colors in issue 1), I almost wept with joy. Ed has been one of my favorite comic book writers since **Scene of the Crime** and new Marcos Martin art is always fantastic.

And I love it. I love crime books and mysteries, and weird horror stories, and FRIDAY looks like it's going to hit all of those nails on their heads. The art is beautiful and I'm already invested in the characters. So I'll just be sitting here, quarantined, eagerly awaiting the next chapter.

Also, you could name the letters section "Friday, I'm in love," because you know, The Cure, or something along the lines of "Freaky Friday" or how about "Kings Hill Correspondence."

Also also, I like the idea of Post-YA. It's sort of what The CW is doing with its Nancy Drew series. (Riverdale, too, to an extent, but Riverdale is too ridiculous and melodramatic most of the time.)

David Golbitz

Oh, I guess you're right about those shows. Riverdale for sure is both YA and playing with it in an over-the-top way at the same time.

Many many thanks for this first issue coming out of nowhere (actually more out of over a year of labour for the three of you, Muntsa, Marcos & Ed) especially in this particular moment.

I was not a big reader as a kid. Books were associated with school and I couldn't get behind the idea of being obliged to read something I didn't want to read. I picked up reading avidly in my twenties but I had missed those books you read around ten. What I never stopped reading was comics. All the European classic BDs and all the US comics I could get my hands on.

If I had to name one of my favourite characters from my early teens it would be Yoko Tsuno by Roger Leloup (story & art), a trio of detectives - Yoko and her friends Vic and Paul - whose adventures would take them alternatively in space helping their galactic friends and then back to Earth solving occult or scientific mysteries.

Friday was an incredible reading moment. Everything mixes perfectly, the disenchanted monologue of an (ex?) teen detective, the Lovecraftian mood, blending with Marcos' art - perhaps his best - and Muntsa's colours. I really dig the first panel of page 4 with Friday, Lance and the cop ready to jump into the adventure. It's such a strong storytelling and artistic statement. The cop with the kids, no question asked. You know where you're driving to and we reader can safely sit in the back. A bit like what Miyazaki is doing in his movies, with a witch in a Victorian city in Kiki's Delivery Service or a flying pig in fascist Italy in Porco Rosso, no one asks about this strangeness and it only reinforces your involvement and trust in the story.

As for the main character, she's splendid! Friday reminds me of Frank Miller's Carrie, Marcos lines have the same strength perhaps with more grace, with more drawing into her. You feel a touch of Edward Gorey but also a parenthood with great children books artists like Sempé, Quentin Blake. Like the (almost) final page when Friday lights her cigarette, a foot in both adult and children world.

A name for the letter page? "It's Friday, I'm writing."

Can't wait for the next issue. And for the paper edition!

Jérôme

I like that Miyazaki reference. I hadn't thought about that, but yeah, the matter-of-factness of the Sheriff and his relationship with Lance, and just the way the town in general knows Friday and Lance (as we'll see in future chapters) is part of the fun of a book like this, and of that genre.

Loved the first issue of **Friday** - even more so as it is something new in this time of comics taking a 'break'.

For some reason the old school mystery story is in vogue now (the Murder on the Orient Express remake, Knives Out, etc.) and it is a genre that I missed and truly love. So I am happy to see Friday join in and enhance the current zeitgeist of sleuths who use their brains to solve mysteries.

Maybe this resurgence of these types of stories is due to a world needs concrete answers to the unknown in these turbulent times. A sense of closure, fixing the problem, stopping the wrongdoer, or maybe it's just the cyclical nature of certain stories that have come back around.

All the best

John V

Yeah, I definitely think mystery stories, and detective stories, allow us to wrap ourselves in a world that feels less random, where the right people might win in the end, as opposed to real life, especially lately.

Thank you for the book and the diversion.

I lived in the library as a kid. I remember the Choose Your Own Adventure Books. I can still see the Encyclopedia Brown shelf from my elementary school library in my head. I too read Harriet. But the one that stands out the most for me is a hardback copy of Nancy Drew 14 - **The Whispering Shadow**. I am guessing what drew (no pun intended) me in was that bright yellow spine with the contrasting stark white cover. It is one of the books I have always kept with me, through any and all moves. I still have it - and I turn 49 next month. I was someone who read aloud as a kid. I am a teacher's kid who then got a degree in education (classic overachiever syndrome). I remember thinking George was such an odd name for a girl. But the main thing I remember is reading aloud the word "chorused" as George and Bess spoke together. However, I pronounced it as "chew-roost". To this day, I still think of it whenever I read the word. And I remember the fact that even though it was Nancy's story, the sidekicks were just as important.

My first job was in a library. It is one of my requirements for moving anywhere. There must be a library nearby. Even in virtual times.

I still devour mysteries with a soft spot for noir. I like the idea that no matter how noble we all seem, all of us have a bit of dirt still on us somewhere. But I also like the idea that law or justice might not always prevail, but order always does. I find myself going back to that idea now. My husband and I are huge comic fans (He got me into the hobby) and last year we both volunteered at our LCS for FCBD, which I am sadly missing now. So thanks for easing that pain.

Looking forward to the next issue. Until then, stay safe and inside.

Idea for the Letters Page - "King's Hill Chronicle"

Kimberly Scampone

Thanks, Kimberly. That's really something, how we can have those flashes of memory, like when you see a book you automatically remember a line from it or a scene. It's interesting how weird little things always stick with us.

I've been an avid fan of Ed Brubaker's comics for a few years now, devouring anything put out by Brubaker and Phillips, and it was cool to read this first chapter of Friday, a collaboration with a different artist and colorist as usual, and a different genre to boot. Some of my favorite YA novels growing up were classics like **Where the Red Fern Grows**, **Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry**, and **The Outsiders**, which have long been classics and still taught in schools today. When I became an English teacher, my reading of YA literature took off again, especially when I sponsored a book club when I taught middle school, reading at least 25 YA books a year. Although I voraciously read comics, I still read YA regularly because the genre is still going strong and I believe it's been underrated and appreciated in some circles, and especially in recent years has helped keep print alive and revitalize bookstores, etc.

Have you read the 2017 horror-comedy novel Meddling Kids by Edgar Cantero? It's a great read, and when you talk of post-YA, this novel came to mind...

Sincerely,
Steve Pinzone

No, I have not read it, but I just looked it up and I'm gonna put it on my list.

I fell in love with Marcos's art in Private Eye - his drawing is super cool, it's so cool to see this remixed retro style. It reminds me of ink spot illustrations in YA books I read growing up, and Muntsa's colouring even reminds me of some of those dusty old YA book covers.

I've enjoyed Ed's Criminal work for years now. Savage Sword of Criminal is one of the all time greatest Conan riffs! Incidentally I gave Savage to my writer friend, Australian horror grandmaster Terry Dowling - he absolutely loved it, especially the sequence with the rolled up magazine eye attack.

Letters page suggestion: Fog Notes

Friday is lovely, inspiring work. I look forward to spending more time in this world and to support this project, I hope, for years to come.

Best,
Nima
Sydney, Australia

Nima's email subject line was TGIF, which is what I assumed was a suggestion for the letter's page title, but somehow it wasn't. It still gave me the idea, though.

So I guess Nima wins, sort of.

¡Muy buenas chicos!

I was going to say that since Marcos and Muntsa are two of the artists involved in this comic book... someone will speak spanish for sure, but just to justify my letter in spanish. I'm a liar. I write in spanish because is much easier for me. Sorry guys.

Estoy a punto de comenzar la grabación de un podcast con mis compañeros de "Es La Hora De Las Tortas" en el que seguro hablaremos del primer número de **Friday** y me he animado a escribiros rápidamente para daros las gracias por compartir vuestra imaginación con todos nosotros, y para daros la enhorabuena por esta nueva andadura. El primer número es muy prometedor y ya espero con ansias el resto. Tiene un tono desconcertante y eso me gusta.

Estoy muy de acuerdo con Ed en lo que influyen los libros que leíamos de chavales sobre las historias que nos salen de dentro cuando maduramos. Quizás por eso a mí no me vaya tanto el género negro y sí más el horror y las distopías. Todavía recuerdo la montonera de libros de Pesadillas y similares que tenía tirados por la habitación...

En fin, no me enrollo más y os doy un posible título para el buzón: PULPPOCKET

Gracias de nuevo chicos.
¡A hablar de tebeos!
Seguiremos ahí... leyendo vuestras historias.

Jaime Gutiérrez Rueda

Thanks for writing in, Jaime. Great to hear about your podcast.

What a great book **Friday** is! I just finished the first issue and it put a huge smile on my face the whole time I was reading it. I was also a kid in the 60's & 70's and Friday sucked me back into the world and feelings of those books. Thank you all so much! I can't wait to get further into Friday and Lancelot's adventure.

I'm hoping my kids will like it, too.

Cheers,
Jim McVay
North Vancouver, BC

As long as they're old enough to read Twilight or Hunger Games, I'm sure Friday will be fine for them.

My suggestion for the name of your letters page is maybe an obvious one, but I think it has a nice ring to it: "The Friday Post".

I'm glad Ed mentioned John Bellairs and Edward Gorey as early inspirations at a time in his youth, as I was a huge fan of their work growing up myself. I also read Nancy Drew, a touch of The Hardy Boys, The Westing Game, and so forth.

I loved the vibe of the first issue and look forward to reading more!

All the best,
Jennifer Lao

Thanks for writing in, Jennifer. I almost went with this suggestion for the letters page title.

Loved the first issue of **Friday**. The art and colors in this one are so different, but fit so well with the writing, I'm excited to find out what happened between Lancelot and Friday. I particularly love the street light hovering above Friday's head when she first returns to King's HIll. There's an Ed Gorey quality you've captured along with your own unique storytelling style.

My favorite young investigator books: **The Three Investigators** (I know, Alfred Hitchcock and the Three Investigators), Pete, Jupe, and Bob. I vividly remember going to the bookstore on Sundays after church (I never liked church or Sunday school but this made up for it) and looking for two things: the latest Garfield collection of strips in book form and the newest Three Investigator novel. I lived for those stories. The Ghost-to-Ghost Hookup could be a good title for the back pages (copyright issues notwithstanding). How about "King's Hill for a Day."

Please keep up the good work. Can't wait to read more.
Gene Desrochers

You know, I have never read any of the Three Investigators books, and I feel like I should have.

Okay, for our final letter, we have a quick short story, which I'm not sure if it will be continued or not...

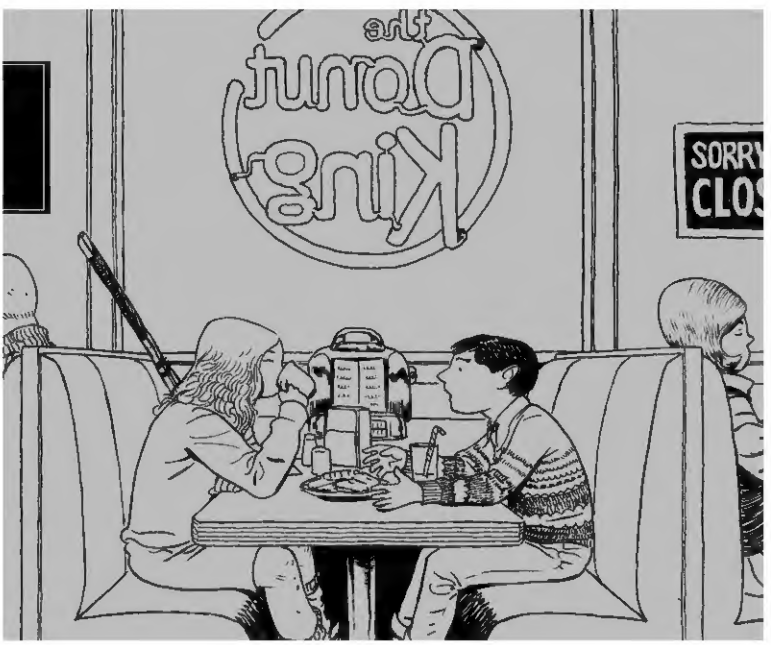
"FRIDAY Fan Letter": A Tina Trotsky Mystery Fan Letter (by Reed Beebe)

Teen detective Tina Trotsky had set an after-school trap for the "ghost" of Palmetto High (Tina suspected the creepy custodian was the culprit, trying to scare kids he hated); to pass the time, she read the debut issue of FRIDAY on her phone. Tina loved the tension between Friday's adult concerns and Lancelot's singular focus on his continuing adventures. Tina wondered if the cerebral Lancelot Jones was inspired by the similarly named Jupiter Jones character from The Three Investigators series. Tina loved Martin and Vicente's artwork, and found the creepy occult mood of the book compelling. She thought "Cryptic Messages" would be a cool title for the letter pages. Tina was so engrossed in the comic she did not notice that it was getting dark outside, or the hooded figure approaching her from behind. (To be continued...)

Okay, that's all we've got this time out. Write to us at: FridayFitzhugh@gmail.com or send us your messages directly if/when you decide to make a payment. Messages are shorter but we do read them all.
And we'll be back as soon as the next chapter is done.

Ed Brubaker

October 21st, 2020



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